



## The Town of Fenwick Island

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### NOTICE TO TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND BAYSIDE PROPERTY OWNERS

As you are aware Hurricane Sandy, which occurred on October 29 and October 30, is the worst storm this area has seen in decades. Although some homes did suffer extensive damages when the bay waters rose and flooded the first floor, most homes had flooding that damaged entry ways and crawlspaces. These homes, in particular, had damages to the drywall, ductwork and insulation as well as the loss of many appliances.

The Town has provided dumpsters located behind Town Hall and the lot located at the corner of Dagsboro Street and Coastal Highway as well as curbside pick-up for the vast amount of debris caused by the storm. The dumpsters and curbside pick-up will continue through the end of November.

Much of the repairs being done to homes in an effort to recover from Hurricane Sandy are underway. In order to keep accurate records of these damages you are being asked to contact Pat Schuchman, Town Building Official, to obtain a building permit for all storm-related repairs. The Town is waiving permit fees for all construction related to Hurricane Sandy. Pat can be reached at 302-539-3011. Please call for an appointment to obtain the building permit. You are also strongly encouraged to submit all flood damages to your insurance company.

Delaware disclosure laws require that any flooding to a house be documented and all repairs be done by a licensed contractor. You should require an itemized bill for all repairs and keep a permanent record of same in the event you want to sell your property. You may want to consider submitting this itemization and credentials of the contractor when you apply for the building permit. A record will be kept in the Building Official's office in each property folder.

Another problem we experienced during the storm was propane bottles that began floating when the water rose. Luckily there was no unfortunate incident as a result of loose propane bottles. In an effort to prevent this in the future, the Charter and Ordinance Committee is working on an amendment to the Town Code that will require all propane and fuel tanks be properly anchored. It is recommended that you contact your provider to get their approval to anchor tanks. The Charter and Ordinance Committee is also considering an amendment that will require anchoring of all ground level decks and boardwalks.

Finally, we have been contacted by a few property owners who have expressed an interest in elevating their homes after experiencing flooding above their first floors. We have contacted the State Floodplain Coordinator's office asking for assistance in requesting federal grants that may become available in the coming months. In the past, the Town has elevated homes with assistance from the "Federal Mitigation Assistance" funds and the "Hazard Mitigation Grant Program" funds. These are programs that may become available to elevate eligible homes in Town. Homes built prior to 1975 that have experienced flood damage and are not elevated to the floodplain requirements may qualify for this program. There is a cost share of 75% Federal Government and 25% property owner. If anyone is interested in seeing if their home qualifies for these programs, please contact Pat.

In closing, the Town of Fenwick Island Town Council and staff would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and patience while we continue with the recovery phase of Hurricane Sandy. If you have any concerns, feel free to contact us at Town Hall.